

# **Code of Judicial Ethics**

Adopted by the 8th All-Russia Congress of Judges on 19 December 2012  
As amended by Ruling of the 9th All-Russia Congress of Judges  
on 8 December 2016

## **EXTRACT**

[...]

### **Chapter 1. General Provisions**

#### **Article 1. Subject Matter of Regulation**

1. The Code of Judicial Ethics, being an act of the judiciary, sets the rules of conduct in the performance of professional activities in the administration of justice and in extrajudicial activities, that are obligatory for every judge and are based on high moral and ethical requirements, the provisions of legislation of the Russian Federation, the international standards in the sphere of justice and judicial conduct.

[...]

### **Chapter 3. Principles and Rules of Professional Conduct of a Judge**

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#### **Article 13. Cooperation with the Mass Media**

1. The effectiveness of judicial activities depends on the public trust, on the due understanding by the society of the legal motives of decisions, adopted by the court.

In order to inform the society about the work of the court in an objective, trustworthy and timely way, a judge should cooperate with representatives of the mass media.

2. A judge should promote the professional representation of work of the court and judges in the mass media, as this not only helps form the legal awareness of citizens and strengthen the authority of justice, but also helps the mass media in performing their important public function of informing the citizens of all socially significant events.

3. When judicial activity is represented in the mass media, a judge should act with discretion, must not comment on the merits of a case, in which a final judicial

act has not yet been passed. However, this does not deprive the judge of the right to provide information about the procedural stages of consideration of the case. In an already considered case, a judge is entitled to give oral or written clarifications on an adopted judicial act.

4. A judge should act in a reserved and correct way when commenting on decisions of fellow judges. A judge may clarify or comment decisions adopted by that judge, voice her/his opinion on the established practice of application of material and/or procedural law norms.

Within the judicial community, a judge may voice disagreement with the conduct of fellow judges in order to rectify defects in the administration of justice, prevent and eradicate the violations of constitutional and international law principles of publicity of judicial proceedings.

5. If the activity of a judge is represented in the mass media in such a way that a disrupted image of the work of courts and judges appears, every judge should choose the form of reaction to such reports on her/his own, based on the legal means that judge has as a citizen. Personal application of a judge for honor and dignity protection to the law enforcement or personal application to the mass media for a public answer to criticism only seems appropriate when all other methods of reaction are exhausted or when it seems impossible to resort to them.

6. When answering public criticism, a judge should act in a reserved and discrete way. In cases, when the authority and impartiality of justice may be harmed as a result of unfounded criticism of actions of a judge in the mass media, the preferred form of answer to the criticism is a publication in the mass media of a commentary of the press service of the court and/or of a body of the Judicial Department at the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, and of a body of the judiciary.

[...]

## **Chapter 4. Conduct of Judges in Extrajudicial Activities:**

### **Rules and Principles**

#### **Article 14. Principles of Extrajudicial Activities**

1. In extrajudicial activities and extrajudicial relations, a judge must avoid anything that may diminish the authority of the judicial power, cast doubt upon its impartiality and fairness.

2. A judge may engage in different types of extrajudicial activities, including scientific, teaching, artistic, public, charity and other types of activities, and may participate in different public events, if this is not inconsistent with the legislation on the status of judges in the Russian Federation and does not harm the interests of justice.

3. A judge should not engage in those types of extrajudicial activities and participate in those public events, that hinder the judge from performing professional duties, negatively influence the independence and impartiality of the judge, lead to frequent applications for recusal or self-recusals of the judge or exceed the limits, established in the legislation on the status of judges in the Russian Federation.

[...]

## **Article 22. Freedom of Opinion**

1. Every judge has a right to freely state her/his opinion. This right includes the freedom to adhere to her/his opinion, receive and spread information and ideas without any intervention of the public authorities and independent of state boundaries.

2. A judge should exercise her/his right to freedom of opinion in a way that is compatible with the limitations related to the judge's status. Herewith, the judge should act with reserve in all cases, when doubts may arise regarding the authority of the court and the impartiality of justice. A judge should abstain from making public statements or remarks that may harm the interests of justice, the judge's independence and impartiality.

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